

Agency: Department of Education and Early Development**Project Title:**

Chatham School District - Student Transportation Van for Gustavus School

State Funding Requested: \$ 40,000
One-Time Need**House District: 5 - C****Brief Project Description:**

Purchase a full-size passenger van for transporting students.

Funding Plan:**Total Cost of Project: \$40,000**Funding Secured

Amount FY

Other Pending Requests

Amount FY

Anticipated Future Need

Amount FY

There is no other funding needed

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

The Gustavus School is in need of a full-size passenger van for student transportation as the School's current van was recently condemned as unsafe and non-economical to repair. It is eighteen years old, mechanically inoperable. A skilled and experienced mechanic determined that repairing it would require an investment substantially in excess of what the vehicle is worth. There are no funds within the budgets of either the Gustavus School or the Chatham School District sufficient to cover the cost of a new van.

The Gustavus School has in recent years developed a reputation for getting students out into the community and the surrounding lands, including Glacier Bay National Park, to better connect them with their natural environment. In addition, programs have been embarked to engage the high school students with local professionals in volunteer and work-study situations throughout the community and at the park. We strongly believe that providing these opportunities for our children makes them better-rounded and prepared for the variety of next steps in their educations and careers. They become familiar with the practicalities of employment opportunities and the natural world that they simply cannot acquire within the doors of the school. The school and students rely heavily on the school van for transporting groups of students for athletic travel and field trips to the beach, local businesses, and the park. Without an operable vehicle, these programs have come to a rather abrupt halt, creating a noticeable hole in our instructional curriculum.

Project Timeline:

As soon as funds received.

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

Chatham School District - Gustavus School

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Contact Name: Vance Cortez-Rucker, Superintendent
Phone Number: 907-788-3302
Address: P.O. Box 109, Angoon, AK 99820
Email: vrucker@chatham.sd.org

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Chatham School District
Gustavus School
P.O. Box 120
Gustavus, AK 99826
(907) 697-2248



Gustavus Advisory
School Council
Darlene Lee
Tania Lewis
Lewis Sharman, Chair
Cheryl Smith
Greg Streveler

Representative Bill Thomas
District 5
Alaska State Capitol, Room 428
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

21 February, 2008

Dear Representative Thomas:

We wish to elicit your support in acquiring a full-size passenger van to replace the Gustavus School's current van that was recently condemned as unsafe and non-economical to repair.

Our current van is eighteen years old and mechanically inoperable. A skilled and experienced mechanic has determined that repairing it would require an investment substantially in excess of what the vehicle is worth. There are no funds within the budgets of either the Gustavus School or the Chatham School District sufficient to cover the cost of a new van. We have looked into the possibility of purchasing a rental vehicle, but have been unsuccessful in locating one in Southeast. Consequently, we ask your assistance in securing funds in the amount of \$40,000 for purchase of a new van.

As you may know, the Gustavus School has in recent years developed a reputation for getting our students out into the community and the surrounding lands, including Glacier Bay National Park, to better connect them with their natural environment. In addition, we have embarked on programs to engage our high school students with local professionals in volunteer and work-study situations throughout the community and at the Park. We strongly believe that providing these opportunities for our children makes them better-rounded and prepared for the variety of next steps in their educations and careers. They become familiar with the practicalities of employment opportunities and the natural world that they simply cannot acquire within the doors of the school.

We have walked and ridden bikes to access these resources, but these modes of transport – while rewarding in many ways – are inefficient time-wise when activities are engaged in during school hours. Consequently, we have come to rely heavily on our school van for transporting groups of students to the beach, to local businesses, and to the Park. Without an operable vehicle, these programs have come to a rather abrupt halt, creating a noticeable hole in our instructional curriculum.

We greatly appreciate any attention that you can give to this issue. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

/s/

Lewis Sharman
Chairman, Gustavus Advisory School Council

Cc: Sen. Albert Kookesh, CSD Administration and Board, Gustavus School Principal,
Gustavus ASC

Chatham School District

Vance Cortez-Rucker, PhD
DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT



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C.I.P. Proposal Student Transportation

- Goal:** To seek fiscal support for the purchase of a van to transport students in and around the community of Gustavus.
- Justification:** Present transportation has been inspected and found to be none repairable – due to age. At present there is no transportation available for the students of Gustavus for field trips and/or athletic travel – thus the level of need is high.
- Funding:** There is no funding available from the site. In-kind donation in the area of up-keep and maintenance will be provided locally. All insurance will be provided by the district. All training of staff for transportation requirements will be provided by the district.
- Funding:** Funding request for this project has not been sought in the past.
- Timeline:**
February – request for funds
June – bidding process will begin
August – board approval of bids
August – purchase made/insurance provided/training begins (if needed for drivers).
- Contact:**
- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Vance Cortez-Rucker – Superintendent | Robyn Taylor – District Principal |
| P.O. Box 109 | P.O. Box 120 |
| Angeon, Ak 99820 | Gustavus, AK 99826 |
| 907-788-3302 ext. 3103 | 907-788-3302 ext. 3401 |
- Community Profile:** Glacier Bay National Park and the surrounding land that is now known as Gustavus have been as much a wonder to humans from the past as they are today...
- Located between 58 and 60 degrees north latitude, this geographic region begins just 60 miles west of Juneau, the state capital of Alaska.
- Accessible only by plane or boat, this pristine area of Alaska contains all the classic features that people from all over the world come to Alaska to see: Vast pristine wilderness areas, huge mountains, glaciers and icebergs, rainforest and giant old growth trees, and healthy populations of fascinating wildlife species including brown bears, whales, and moose, among many others.
- The district school, at the Gustavus site, currently is enjoying a growing population. At present there are fifty-two students with more possible. The school has recently gone through a renovation and the students and parents, as well as the community, are very proud of their school.